

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 16-19 and 22-24 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 16 are the independent claims. Claims 25-32 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

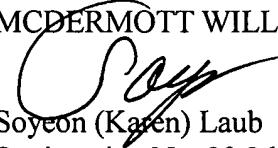
Applicants appreciate Examiner's indication that Claims 1-8, 10-13, 16-19 and 22-24 are allowed over the prior art of record. Without conceding the issue of patentability and in the interest of expediting allowance of the present application, Claims 25-32, which were the remaining claims of the present application, have been canceled without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Applicants' undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Soyeon (Karen) Laub
Registration No. 39,266

**Please recognize our Customer No. 31824
as our correspondence address.**

18191 Von Karman Ave., Suite 500
Irvine, CA 92612-7108
Phone: 949.851.0633 SKL:jh
Facsimile: 949.851.9348
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